Revival of Shipping Industry

1521. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minsiter of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is acute stagnation in the shipping industry for the last several years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any growth plan has been drawn up by the shipping industry or by his Ministry; and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether his Ministry has sought any exemptions from the Ministry of Finance under the Income Tax Act and an enhanced depreciation rate for vessels for the shipping industry including infrastructure status for the coastal shipping?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Indian tonnage has declined from 7.10 million Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT) in 1996 to 6.78 million GRT as on January, 1999. It is due to the drastic fall in the international freight rate for the last 2-3 years and scrapping of old tonnage.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Government have set a target to achieve a net growth of 2 million GRT taking the total tonnage to 9 million GRT at the end of 9th Plan with the acquisition of 3.7 million GRT (2 million on additional account and 1.7 million on replacement account).

(d) Yes, Sir.

Raising of Funds for road development

1522. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to impose a tax on automobiles to raise funds for road development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to create an express ways authority; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Since planning and construction of Expressways has to be done keeping in view the highest standards of operational efficiency and safety, and after construction they have to be operated and maintained to those standards, a need has been felt for creating a specialised organisation which will be exclusively responsible for their planning development, construction, maintenance and operation.

सड़क परियोजनाओं से संबंधित कार्यदल

1523. **श्री रामगोपाल यादव:**
श्री ईश दत्त यादव:

क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सड़क परियोजनाओं को शीघ्रता से पूरा करने के लिए प्रधान मंत्री द्वारा किसी कार्यदल/समिति का गठन किया गया था और क्या इन परियोजनाओं के संबंध में वित्तीय समस्याओं को दूर करने के लिए कोई समय सारणी निर्धारित की गई थी;

(ख) यदि हां, तो समिति के अध्यक्ष तथा सदस्यों के नाम तथा पद क्या-क्या हैं और क्या निश्चित समयावधि में वित्तीय समस्याओं को दूर करने के लिए उपायों का पता लगाया जा चुका है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा इस संबंध में क्या कार्यवाई की गई है?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० देबेन्द्र प्रधान): (क) से (घ) प्रधान मंत्री महोदय ने योजना आयोग के उपाध्यक्ष की अध्यक्षता में एक्सप्रैसमार्ग/राजमार्ग परियोजनाओं के लिए अवसंरचना संबंधी कार्य बल का गठन किया है। इसे एक्सप्रैस मार्गों

और राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों के लिए रूट निर्धारित करने, उसके लिए तकनीकी मापदंड स्थापित करने, परियोजनाओं के वित्त पोषण के विकल्प और उन्हें समय पर पूरा करने के लिए आवश्यक उपायों की सिफारिश करने तथा परियोजनाओं के कार्यान्वयन पर यथा समय निगरानी रखने का कार्य सौंपा गया है। कार्य बल की वर्तमान रचना इस प्रकार है:—

1. श्री के० सी० पंत, उपाध्यक्ष,— अध्यक्ष योजना आयोग
2. श्री जसवंत सिंह, विदेश मंत्री — सदस्य
3. श्री एम० थम्बी दुरई, जल-— सदस्य भूतल परिवहन मंत्री
4. श्री अनंत कुमार, नागर विमानन— सदस्य मंत्री
5. श्री दीपक पारीख, अध्यक्ष, आई— सदस्य डी एफ सी
6. श्री आनंद महिन्द्रा, प्रबंध निदेशल— सदस्य क, महिन्द्रा फोर्ड
7. सचिव, जल-भूतल परिवहन— सदस्य मंत्रालय
8. सचिव, नागर, विमानन—सदस्य मंत्रालय
9. श्री एन० के० सिंह, प्रधान मंत्री के सचिव —सदस्य सचिव

कार्यबल ने डीजल पर उपकर तथा वित्तपोषण की जरूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए एक समर्पित निधि की स्थापना की सिफारिश की है।

Allocation of funds for NHs in Manipur

1524. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount sanctioned for Naitonal Highways in each district of Maipur;

(b) the amount spent so far for this purpose;

(c) whether the funds have allegedly been misappropriated;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the details of inquiry into the matter by Government; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINSITER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Districtwise sanctions are neither issued nor monitored by the Minsitry. The total sanctioned amount of projets in progress with Public Works Department on National Highways in manipur is about Rs. 30 crore on which expenditure up to January 1999 was about Rs. 14 crore. In addition to this Border Roads Organisation have sancitoned projects amounting to about Rs. 59 crore for widening of NH 53 on which expenditure up to January 1999 was about Rs. 15 crore.

(c) to (e) No such case has been reported by Manipur public Works Department or Border Roads Organsiation to this Ministry.

Cess on Road Transport

1525. DR. B. B. DUTTA: Will the Minsiter of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased tos state:

(a) whether Government have imposed a cess on road transport to mobilise resources for construction of roads;

(b) if so, the details of funds mobilised through this cess during the last two years;

(c) how these funds have been utilised;

(d) the amount collected by Government as road tax annually; and

(e) whether this amount is not sufficient to take care of maintenance of roads in the country?

THE MINISTR OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) Motor Vehicle Taxation is

State subject and any such tax is collected and appropriated by State Government.